

**STATEMENT OF GUY B. ROBERTS NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed, and members of the committee for your consideration of my nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be considered for this important position.

I wish to thank the President and Secretary Mattis for their confidence in me and their support for my nomination. And of course, I owe an immense debt of gratitude to my family, my wife Helene, and my two sons, Matthew and Alexander who regrettably could not be here today. Their love, support and sacrifice have been uplifting and without it I certainly wouldn't be here today.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the men and women who have served, and who continue to serve our nation in uniform today. Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are enormous, as I can attest first hand, and we cannot thank them enough. I feel no stronger sense of purpose and inspiration than, if confirmed, to dedicate myself to ensure that they as well as all Americans are fully protected from the threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation and use.

Likewise, if confirmed, I look forward to working with the rest of the Department of Defense team to support Secretary Mattis in implementing the President's plan to rebuild our military and to ensure the safety and security of the American people, particularly regarding modernizing our nuclear enterprise and our anti proliferation initiatives and programs.

I believe my 35 years of experience participating in and negotiating multi-lateral and bilateral agreements on arms control and proliferation issues and overseeing our NATO nuclear posture make me uniquely qualified for this position. This includes serving as a military officer tasked with representing the DOD in various conventional and strategic arms control negotiations; working in the private sector as a subject matter expert on non-proliferation training programs, as an academic teaching classes on non-proliferation, arms control and deterrence strategy; and as a senior official in OSD policy where I worked on issues that continue to bedevil us including Russia, North Korea, our nuclear deterrence and

missile defense policy, and a range of arms control and counter proliferation initiatives.

Additionally, as NATO's Deputy Assistant Secretary General for WMD Policy and the Director for Nuclear Policy I worked closely with our allies to help shape our policy towards a revanchist Russia, developed and implemented NATO's comprehensive policy to prevent WMD proliferation, and oversaw NATO's nuclear deterrence posture. While there I developed a keen appreciation for the importance of regular consultations and working closely with our allies and partners as well as other international actors and industry.

If confirmed, I anticipate continuing to work closely with our Allies and partners as well as my interagency counterparts to help synchronize our efforts regarding U.S. foreign non-proliferation and counter proliferation policy objectives.

Most importantly, the President has prioritized nuclear modernization as the highest priority among national defense requirements. If confirmed, I will work to first ensure we have a robust nuclear enterprise with a full set of flexible, credible, ready and survivable nuclear capabilities; second, work to develop a nuclear posture that's responsive to today's threats and challenges; and third, institute declaratory policies that, in any adversary's eyes, credibly convey the message that aggression of any kind is not a rational option.

I believe we must maintain a second-to-none robust deterrence posture to complement our efforts to stop and counter the threat of WMD possession and use. Additionally, if confirmed, I will work closely with other DoD components as well as our inter-agency partners and allies to ensure that state and non-state actors never have the opportunity to acquire and use these weapons of mass destruction and disruption against our forces, our allies and our homeland.

Finally, if confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee to support developing and modernizing the needed capabilities to deter our adversaries, reassure our allies, prevent the spread of, protect against, and effectively respond to the threat of WMD proliferation and use.

Thank you again and I look forward to your questions.